

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application.

Claims 1-8 (cancelled)

Claim 9 (original) A process for use as part of a routing protocol in a mobile ad hoc digital communications network composed of a plurality of nodes each of which includes a router having a routing table including routing information defining routing pathways through said network and one or more metrics defining message transfer characteristics for each such routing pathway, comprising the steps of:

- a) having a plurality of said nodes exchange routing information including routing pathways through said network and one or more metrics defining message transfer costs for each routing pathway;
- b) having one of said nodes calculate a measure of the degree to which it comprises an advantaged node;
- c) having an advantaged node increase one or more of the metrics of a plurality of pathways through said node entered into its routing table to form an updated routing table as a function of said measure of the degree to which it comprises an advantaged node; and
- d) having said updated routing table including adjusted metrics advertised across said network for the purpose of updating the routing tables of other network nodes.

Claim 10 (original) The process of claim 9, wherein:

said measure of the degree to which a node comprises an advantaged node is based on based on a ratio of a node's neighbors to the average number of its neighbor nodes' neighbors.

Claim 11 (original) The process of claim 9, wherein:

said routing protocol comprises a DSDV protocol and said one or more metrics comprises hop count, and

said measure of the degree to which a node comprises an advantaged node is based on a ratio of a node's neighbors to the average number of its neighbor nodes' neighbors.

Claim 12 (original) The process of claim 9, wherein:

said routing protocol comprises a link state protocol and said one or more metrics comprises latency.

Claim 13 (currently amended) A process for use as part of a routing protocol in a mobile ad hoc digital communications network comprising of a plurality of nodes each of which includes a router having a routing table including routing information defining routing pathways through said network and including one or more metrics defining message transfer characteristics for each such routing pathway, comprising the steps of:

- a) having a plurality of said nodes exchange routing advertisement messages including routing pathways through said network and one or more metrics defining message transfer cost metrics for each routing pathway;
- b) having one or more of said nodes check to determine if they comprise partially disadvantaged nodes;
- c) having a partially disadvantaged node increase one or more of the metrics of a plurality of routing pathways through said node entered into a routing table ~~by an amount~~ in order to discourage all but essential traffic through said node and form an updated routing table; and
- d) having said updated routing table advertised across said network for the purpose of updating the routing tables of other network nodes.

Claim 14 (original) The process of claim 13, wherein:

the step of having each node check to determine if it comprises a partially disadvantaged node includes the step of having the node check its available power reserves as a basis for determining if it may be a partially disadvantaged node.

Claim 15 (original) The process of claim 13, wherein:

said routing protocol comprises a DSDV protocol and said one or more metrics comprise hop count.

Claim 16 (original) The process of claim 13, wherein:

said routing protocol comprises a link state protocol and said one or more metrics comprise latency.

Claims 17-22 (cancelled)

Claim 23 (New) A process for use as part of a routing protocol in a mobile ad hoc digital communications network comprising a plurality of nodes each of which includes a router having a routing table including routing information defining routing pathways through said network and including one or more metrics defining message transfer characteristics for each such routing pathway, comprising the steps of:

- a) having a plurality of said nodes exchange routing advertisement messages including routing pathways through said network and one or more metrics defining message transfer cost metrics for each routing pathway;
- b) having one or more of said nodes check to determine if they comprise partially disadvantaged nodes;
- c) having one or more of said nodes check to determine if they comprise advantaged nodes;
- d) having an advantaged node increase one or more of the metrics of a plurality of routing pathways through said advantaged node entered into a

routing table by a first amount in order to discourage traffic through said node and form a first updated routing table;

- e) having said first updated routing table advertised across said network for the purpose of updating the routing tables of other network nodes;
- f) having a partially disadvantaged node increase one or more of the metrics of a plurality of routing pathways through said partially disadvantaged node entered into a routing table by a second amount in order to discourage all but essential traffic through said partially disadvantaged node and form a second updated routing table; and
- g) having said second updated routing table advertised across said network for the purpose of updating the routing tables of other network nodes.

Claim 24 (New) The process of claim 23, wherein:

the step of having each node check to determine if it comprises a partially disadvantaged node includes the step of having the node check its available power reserves as a basis for determining if it may be a partially disadvantaged node.

Claim 25 (New) The process of claim 23, wherein:

said routing protocol comprises a DSDV protocol and said one or more metrics comprise hop count.

Claim 26 (New) The process of claim 23, wherein:

said routing protocol comprises a link state protocol and said one or more
metrics comprise latency.